THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) For the protection and development of Tamil minorities in Delhi and other northern States, no special policy has been formulated.

Metering of feeders, distribution transformers and consumer connections

*110. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) envisaged 100 per cent metering of feeders, distribution transformers (DTs) and consumer connections;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made thereon; and

(c) the measures taken to complete 100 per cent feeder, DT and consumer metering in all the ongoing and completed APDRP projects, within a clearly defined time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) envisaged 100 per cent metering of 11 KV feeders. In addition, a few Distribution Transformer (DT) metering and consumer metering projects have also been sanctioned under the APDRP. As reported, 98% feeder metering has been achieved at national level. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal have reported 100% feeder metering. All APDRP projects including metering projects are to be completed within 18 to 36 months from the date of sanction of the project.

Power generation cost of NTPC

†*111. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

With the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of power generation by the National Thermal Power Corporation is higher than that of other private sector companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the bids of private sector companies for Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project was lower, as compared to the bid of the National Thermal Power Corporation; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not true to say that the cost of generation of NTPC power stations is higher than the private sector power plants. The cost of generation of electricity depends

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

upon a number of factors like type of plant, capacity, type of fuel and its cost, year of commissioning, location etc.

(c) The tariff bid of NTPC was neither the highest nor the lowest among the bids received.

(d) The tariff bid submitted by NTPC Ltd. in respect of the Sasan project was based on various assumptions relating to cost inputs, performance inputs, applicable taxes & duties etc., inputs from consultations and assessment of risk associated with the development and operation of such a large sized integrated power plant and the coal mine. Moreover, price bids submitted by companies are commercial decisions which are in the nature of business confidential information of any company or commercial undertaking.

Pending cases in courts

†*112. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases are pending for long in district courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the time limit for disposal of cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts and subordinate courts;

(c) whether Government would consider disposing off single point cases pending for long on single point basis; and

(d) if so, what provisions would be made therefor in the enactments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A number of cases are pending in the various courts of the country, some of them for a period of more than a year.

(b) to (d) The time taken for disposing of a case in the court and the manner of its disposal is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of civil cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into to force with effect from 1.7.2002 which, *inter-alia*, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail and authorize the court to fix time limit for oral arguments, etc. Further, with a view to ensuring speedy disposal of criminal cases, Government has made appropriate changes in the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, *inter-alia*, introducing the concept of 'Plea Bargaining'.

Women education centres in the North Eastern Region

*113. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of women education centres set up by the Central Government for illiterate women, in the North Eastern Region (NER), particularly in Sikkim, during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.